

## Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 PM-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 H-03 IO-15

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R 121018Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7452

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS TOKYO 13268

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,JA,KS

SUBJECT: JUSTICE MINISTER TANAKA SPEAKS ON KIM TAE CHUNG CASE.

1. IN LUNCHEON SPEECH BEFORE JAPAN FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB OCTOBER 11, JUSTICE MINISTER ISAJI TANAKA EXPRESSED STRONG CONVICTION THAT KIM TAE CHUNG ABDUCTION FROM JAPAN WAS ACTION INVOLVING ROKG AND DECLARED THAT GOJ DETERMINED TO PRESS FOR DEFINITIVE SOLUTION OF CASE. TANAKA SAID THAT FROM STANDPOINT OF REASON AND LOGIC AND ON BASIS OF POLICE EVIDENCE IN HAND, THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT IN HIS MIND THAT KIDNAPPING INVOLVED ROKG OFFICIALLY AND WAS NOT PRIVATE ACT. HE SAID THAT ENTIRE FOCUS OF GOJ INVESTIGATION OF CASE WAS TO ESTABLISH FIRMLY QTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW UNQTE THAT KIM KIDNAPPING WAS OFFICIALLY INSPIRED. TANAKA INSISTED THAT UNTIL TRUTH IS DETERMINED AND FACTS SATISFACTORILY ESTABLISHED, GOJ WILL NOT ACCEPT POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AND WILL ALLOW POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO ENTER IN ONLY AFTER ABDUCTION CASE IS RESOLVED.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM CLUB MEMBERS, TANAKA  
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MADE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS. FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

OF CASE, GOJ WILL WANT AMENDS MADE TO JAPAN'S VIOLATED SOVEREIGNTY BY RETURN OF KIM TAE CHUNG TO JAPAN AND RESTORATION OF HIS FREEDOM. JAPANESE POLICE HAD DETERMINED THROUGH FINGERPRINTS THAT KOREAN DIPLOMAT KIM DONG-WOON DEFINITELY INVOLVED IN ABDUCTION PLOT EARLY IN INVESTIGATION. THIS AND OTHER EVIDENCE IN ORIGINALLY SECRET INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN MADE PUBLIC BECAUSE OF ROKG'S PERSISTENT REFUSAL TO QTE SELF-REFLECT UNQTE AND ADMIT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR AFFAIR. IF KIM TAE CHUNG WERE TO BE RETURNED TO JAPAN HE WOULD NOT BE MUZZLED BUT ALLOWED FULL FREEDOM TO SPEAK OUT POLITICALLY.

3. COMMENT: JUSTICE MINISTER TANAKA REMARKS ARE CONSISTENT WITH PERSONAL POSITION HE HAS REPEATEDLY TAKEN IN DIET COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF KIM CASE, BEGINNING WITH ORIGINAL STATEMENT LATE AUGUST THAT QTE SIXTH SENSE UNQTE TOLD HIM THAT OFFICIALS OF QTE CERTAIN COUNTRY UNQTE INVOLVED (TOKYO 10943). THIS WAS THINLY VEILED REFERENCE TO ROK WHICH IMMEDIATELY UNDERSTOOD BY PRESS AND OTHERS. IN DEVELOPING SUBSEQUENT POSITION THAT EVIDENCE PROVES ROK OFFICIAL INVOLVEMENT WHICH MORE BLUNT THAN CAUTIOUS POSITION TAKEN BY GOJ COLLEAGUES, JUSTICE MINISTER HAS NEVERTHELESS REJECTED OPPOSITION CONTENTIONS THAT JAPAN SHOULD AS CONSEQUENCE CUT OFF ECONOMIC AID TO ROK. EVEN IN REMARKS BEFORE PRESS CLUB JUSTICE MINISTER LEFT DOOR OPEN TO CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND ROK, ON CONDITION THAT ABDUCTION CASE IS PROPERLY RESOLVED.  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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